

BY: Environmental Matters Committee

AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 769
(First Reading File Bill)

AMENDMENT NO. 1

On page 1, in the sponsor line, strike “and Cane” and substitute “Cane, Glassman, Lawton, Montgomery, Sossi, Stull, and Weir”; in line 10, strike “repealing” and substitute “altering”; and strike beginning with “authorizing” in line 11 down through “provisions;” in line 13 and substitute “encouraging counties to provide property tax credits for agricultural districts; requiring the Foundation, on or before a certain date, to report to the General Assembly on certain matters concerning the elimination of agricultural districts from the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program:”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2

On page 3, in line 30, strike “1 TO 5” and substitute “3 TO 10”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3

On page 4, in line 17, in each instance, strike the bracket; and after line 22, insert:

“(2) A LANDOWNER WHO REJECTS AN OFFER FROM THE FOUNDATION TO PURCHASE AN EASEMENT ON THE SAME LAND DURING TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS, FOR A REASON OTHER THAN INSUFFICIENT FOUNDATION FUNDS, MAY NOT REAPPLY TO SELL AN EASEMENT ON THE SAME LAND FOR THE FOLLOWING TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4

On page 5, strike in their entirety lines 16 through 26, inclusive; in line 27, strike the first set of brackets; in the same line, strike “(F)”; and after line 39, insert:

“SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That counties are encouraged to provide property tax credits for agricultural districts.”

(Over)

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, on or before January 31, 2007, the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation shall submit to the General Assembly, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, a report outlining procedures, laws, and regulations that the Foundation determines to be necessary in order to implement the elimination of agricultural districts from the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Program. The report shall include:

(a) an implementation timeline;

(b) statutory language for the repeal and reenactment of §§ 2-509 and 2-510 of the Agriculture Article, including the removal of the requirement for districts from the easement application process to become effective July 1, 2007, and the elimination of districts from the program to become effective June 30, 2008;

(c) a process for county and State approval of easement applications;

(d) a provision for optional county districts;

(e) a provision that requires participating counties to establish a right-to-farm ordinance;

(f) a provision that prohibits properties from being developed or subdivided during the easement application process; and

(g) a provision that allows for the continuation of tax credits for existing districts.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5

On page 6, in line 1, strike “2.” and substitute “4.”; and in line 2, strike “October” and substitute “July”.